



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-11)

SENATE PANEL DISCUSSES GRT PLAN

A joint meeting of the Senate's Education and Revenue Committees was held Wednesday and nearly seven hours of testimony was heard on Governor Rod Blagojevich's Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) proposal. Contained in amendment #1 to **SB 1 (Jones, E., D-Chicago)**, the plan would tax each dollar a business receives, as opposed to an income tax which only taxes the profits of the company – or the net receipts. No vote was taken on the amendment so it has not been sent to the full Senate for consideration. A full review of amendment #1 to SB 1 was contained in the last Alliance Legislative Report (95-10); it can be found at www.iasb.com/files/alr-9510.htm.

The GRT, according to the Governor, would generate over \$7 billion in new taxes in the next fiscal year; \$1.5 billion would be earmarked for public education. What has been evident in the hearings on SB 1 and on HB 750 last month (see Alliance Legislative Report 95-9: www.iasb.com/files/alr-9509.htm) is that no new money will be appropriated for public schools without property tax relief and significant new school district accountability provisions. The accountability will likely include requirements that dictate the programs on which the new money must be spent, financial and programmatic oversight of the school board and administration, mandatory school board training, and limits on administrative salaries. These themes have been heard over and over again in all school funding discussions.

The Alliance is still analyzing and researching both SB 1 and HB 750 and has taken no position on either bill. Neither piece of legislation is in its final form – both will go through significant revisions over the next several weeks. The accountability provisions of HB 750 are not contained in the bill as currently drafted – they may be unveiled next week.

The Senate Public Health Committee and the Senate Human Services Committee also met in a joint meeting to discuss amendment #1 to **SB 5 (Trotter, D-Chicago)**. This amendment contains the Governor's "Illinois Covered" universal health insurance proposal. No vote was taken on this amendment either.

GOVERNOR NAMES STATE SUPERINTENDENT

The Governor Thursday, after a nation-wide search to replace Dr. Randy Dunn, named Dr. Christopher Koch as the State Superintendent of Education. Dr. Koch has been serving as the interim superintendent since Dunn's departure late last year and has worked at the Illinois State Board of Education since 1994.

The Governor also re-appointed five members of the State Board of Education whose terms expired in January. Board Chairman Jesse Ruiz, Dr. Andrea Brown, Dr. David Fields, Ed Geppert, Jr., and Dr. Vinni Hall all were re-appointed. The terms of the remaining board members expire in 2009.

THIRD PARTY CONTRACTING LEGISLATION

The bill that would significantly curtail the school district practice of contracting for services such as transportation, food service, and janitorial services has been amended and is ready for a floor vote in the House of Representatives. **HB 1347 (Hannig, D-Litchfield)** would add burdensome new restrictions for a school board entering into a contract with a third party to perform non-instructional services. Though amended in committee this week, the Alliance still opposes the bill. An in-depth

review of the bill is contained in Alliance Legislative Report (95-8) which can be found at www.iasb.com/files/alr-9508.htm.

The amendment makes some minor changes regarding the new hearing requirements and the provisions regarding the disclosure of employee disciplinary records, however the most burdensome provisions remain in the bill. The bill still states that *no contract could be entered into with a third party during the term of a collective bargaining agreement* – this could mean years between opportunities to contract out for services. It also still contains the provision that *requires the third party to provide “comparable” insurance and benefits*. The term “comparable” is not defined which leads to confusion of what is acceptable – and could require third party contractors to increase their overhead costs making it cost prohibitive for a school district to use their services.

The bill will be called for a vote on the House floor next week. Please contact your State Representative one more time and urge a “no” vote on HB 1347.

OTHER BILL ACTION THIS WEEK

HB 165 (Osmond, R-Antioch) requires school to be closed on election day if it is used as a polling place. **The bill was defeated** in House Elections and Campaign Reform Committee.

HB 263 (Eddy, R-Hutsonville) requires that child sex offenders vote by absentee ballot or by early voting when their polling place is in a school and requires that a child sex offender faces a Class 4 felony charge for knowingly being present within 100 feet of a school bus stop. **The bill was approved** by the House Elections and Campaign Reform Committee and was sent to the House Floor.

HB 380 (Mautino, D-Spring Valley) is a “work in progress” to create a state-wide assessment system for wind farms. The bill will be amended to reflect ongoing negotiations in this area. **The bill was approved** by the House Revenue Committee and was sent to the House Floor for consideration.

HB 410 (Verschoore, D-Milan) allows a county board to place a question on the ballot to implement a sales tax for distribution to school districts within the county who’s voters approve the measure for school district facility needs. **The bill was approved** by the House Revenue Committee and was sent to the House Floor for consideration.

HB 412 (Poe, R-Springfield) requires a tax-equivalent grant to be paid to any school district where a State-owned institution is located (now, a school district is entitled to a grant only if the State owns 45% or more of the total land area of the district). **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 419 (Fritchey, D-Chicago) prohibits a person from holding elective public office (including school board) if that person has been convicted of a felony relating to his or her duties in an elective government office. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1449 (Hernandez, D-Cicero) establishes a “Healthy Smiles Fund” income tax check-off and allows the Department of Public Health to make grants or use moneys in the Healthy Smiles Fund for school-based, school-linked oral health programs. **The bill was approved** by the House Revenue Committee and was sent to the House Floor for consideration.

HB 1559 (Pritchard, R-Hinckley) requires school districts to have a policy before collecting biometric information (fingerprints, retinal scans, etc.) from students. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1647 (Pihos, R-Glen Ellyn) provides that any information of a personal nature disclosed by a pupil 12 years of age or older in the process of receiving school counseling, school psychological services, or school social work services, is confidential and cannot become part of the pupil's record. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate.

HB 1648 (Mitchell, R-Sterling) requires the ISBE to establish a P-20 council to coordinate education efforts between elementary, secondary, and higher education institutions. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1718 (Bradley, J., D-Marion) provides that for a 5-member public body, (i) the gathering of a quorum (now, a majority of a quorum) to discuss public business constitutes a meeting, (ii) 3 members constitute a quorum, and (iii) the affirmative votes of 3 members are necessary to adopt a motion, ordinance, or resolution unless a greater number is otherwise required. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1727 (Joyce, D-Chicago) requires public libraries (including school libraries) to create and enforce an internet safety policy that provides for the installation of computer software that filters obscene material or any material that is harmful to minors. **The bill was amended** and is pending action on the House floor.

HB 1872 (Nekritz, D-Northbrook) repeals the section of the School Code requiring school boards to canvass the vote to make the School Code consistent with the Election Code. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 2787 (Davis, W., D-Hazel Crest), subject to appropriation, provides that funding for civic education professional development for high school teachers must be provided by line item appropriation made to the State Board of Education for that purpose. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 3327 (Beaubien, R-Barrington Hills) requires the inclusion of the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle in safety education instruction. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 3406 (Hassert, R-Romeoville) requires the ISBE to rank school districts based on certain school construction priorities and notify each school district of its rank. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 3583 (Dugan, D-Bradley) allows an employer of a school bus driver that has a substantiated reason to suspect that a bus driver showing up for work is under the influence of alcohol, to require the driver to submit to testing for alcohol at a licensed testing facility before he or she is allowed to drive a school bus. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate.

HB 3434 (Arroyo, D-Chicago) requires the Department of Revenue to conduct a study to determine the feasibility for each county to include, for each property tax bill, information concerning any TIF project that affects the taxpayer. **The bill was approved** by the House Revenue Committee and was sent to the House Floor for consideration.

SB 1426 (Murphy, R--Palatine) removes the exceptions for contracts for the purchase of natural gas when the cost is less than that offered by a public utility and for utility services such as light and heat. It provides that a school board must award utility contracts, such as natural gas or electricity, involving an expenditure in excess of \$10,000 to the lowest responsible bidder but provides that if a school district joins a utility consortium, then that consortium must award utility contracts involving an expenditure in excess of \$10,000 to the lowest responsible bidder. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

SB 1557 (Frerichs, D-Champaign) requires a driver education course to include classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

BILLS SCHEDULED FOR COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 24, 11:00 a.m., Room 212, State Capitol

***Subject matter only:** School Code Mandate Waivers.

Any school district that has a mandate waiver request that has been transmitted to the General Assembly is urged to attend the hearing and provide testimony on behalf of its request.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 24, 2:30 p.m., Room 400, State Capitol

HB 408 (Leitch, R-Peoria) requires that a minor holding an instruction permit or a graduated driver's license display on any vehicle he or she is driving a sign or signs, approved by the Secretary of State, indicating that the vehicle is being driven by a new driver.

HB 518 (D'Amico, D-Chicago) provides that the Secretary of State may, without fee, allow the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 18 years, who holds a graduated driver's license or an instruction permit, to view the person's driving record online through a computer connection.

HB 1238 (Watson, R-Jacksonville) provides that a strobe lamp on a school bus may be lighted at any time when the bus is being used as a school bus and is bearing one or more pupils (rather than only when the bus is stopped or moving very slowly under those circumstances).

HB 3624 (Lang, D-Chicago) requires that each school bus display at the rear of the bus a visible and readable sign, indicating the telephone number of the owner of the school bus, and indicating that the number is to be called to report erratic driving by the school bus driver. The owner of each school bus shall establish procedures for accepting these calls and for taking complaints.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 25, 2:30 p.m., Room 212, State Capitol

HB 38 (Cross, R-Oswego) allows a school board and administration to suspend or expel students if they have made an explicit threat on an internet web site against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel.

HB 285 (Mitchell, J., R-Sterling) amends the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 to require the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish and operate a renewable energy grant program to assist school districts in the installation, acquisition, construction, and improvement of renewable energy sources in the public schools.

HB 357 (Chapa LaVia, D-Aurora) extends the expiration date for school district interfund transfers from June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

HB 438 (Pritchard, R-Hinckley) provides that, in addition to providing for instruction in bullying prevention, each school district may make suitable provisions for instruction in gang resistance education and training in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein.

HB 816 (Coulson, R-Glenview) provides that when a student reaches 18 years all rights accorded to the student's parents transfer to the student except for certain provisions under this legislation and requires the school district to notify the student and student's parents of the transfer of rights, in writing during the year that the student turns 17 years.

HB 817 (Coulson), in the definition of "children with disabilities", provides that an eligible student who requires continued public school educational experience to facilitate his or her successful transition and integration into adult life is eligible for special education services through age 21, including until the day before the student's 22nd birthday.

HB 895 (May, D-Highland Park) creates the Green Cleaning Schools Act to require the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council (IGGCC), in consultation with other agencies, to establish and amend on an annual basis guidelines and specifications for environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products for use in school facilities. By no later than 90 days after implementation of the guidelines and specifications, all elementary and secondary public and non-public schools shall establish a green cleaning policy and exclusively purchase and use environmentally-sensitive cleaning products pursuant to the guidelines and specifications, except that a school may deplete its existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks and implement the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following school year.

HB 1922 (Moffitt, R-Galesburg) requires the ISBE to develop an agricultural education teacher training continuum and to provide grants to universities for agriculture education teacher education programs.

HB 3654 (Golar, D-Chicago) makes changes to the "Grow Your Own Teacher" program.

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

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